

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 7, 10 and 12 as follows:

1. (Four Times Amended) An apparatus for cutting and stirring curd, comprising a curd vat with a shaft drivable for rotation, which shaft carries a number of cutting frames extending radially from the shaft and arranged on the shaft in staggered relation, each cutting frame having two frame girders, which extend radially from the drivable shaft and between which a lattice work is situated formed from longitudinal knives and transverse knives, the transverse knives being mounted on the frame girders by welding wherein the transverse knives have openings which are in line, in which the longitudinal knives are received, while means are provided for substantially preventing displacement of the longitudinal knives in the longitudinal direction and wherein each longitudinal knife has a size relative to the size of the openings such that the longitudinal knives are loosely disposed in the openings with a relatively large play ~~at least a number of said opening are of essentially circular or oval shape.~~

7. (Four Times Amended) A cutting frame comprising: a pair of parallel girders, the girders being spaced apart and having a plurality of transverse knives extending transversely between the girders and secured to the girders by welding, the transverse knives having a cutting edge extending transversely of the girders and the transverse knives having a plurality of openings, the openings in one of the transverse knives being aligned with openings in adjacent transverse knives, longitudinal knives each having a longitudinal cutting edge, the longitudinal knives extending through the openings in the transverse knives, the openings being larger

in size than the longitudinal knives, the longitudinal knives having means for preventing the longitudinal knives from longitudinal movement.

10. (Thrice Amended) A cutting frame comprising: a pair of parallel girders, the girders being spaced apart and having a plurality of transverse knives extending transversely between the girders and secured to the girders by welding, the transverse knives having a cutting edge extending transversely of the girders and the transverse knives having a plurality of openings, the openings in one of the transverse knives being aligned with openings in adjacent transverse knives, longitudinal knives extending through the openings in the transverse knives, the longitudinal knives being loosely disposed in the openings with a relatively large play, and means for substantially preventing displacement of the longitudinal knives in the longitudinal direction.

12. (Thrice Amended) A cutting frame comprising:
a pair of girders, said girders being spaced apart from each other and having a plurality of transverse knives extending between the girders, the transverse knives being connected to the girders by welding,

a plurality of longitudinal knives arranged in substantially parallel relation to the girders and being spaced apart from each other, the longitudinal knives being secured against longitudinal displacement relative to the girders,

the transverse knives having a plurality of openings, the openings in each transverse knife being in register with corresponding openings of others of the

transverse knives and through which the longitudinal knives pass, each longitudinal knife comprising two legs connected by a part.